

Remarks

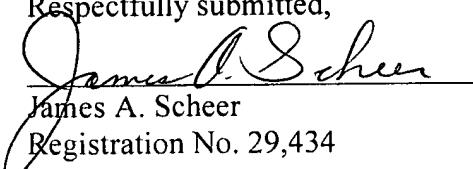
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the captioned application in view of the Request for Continued Examination submitted herewith and in view of the amendments and the following discussion. Independent claim 27 and dependent claim 47 have been amended, and new claims 48-56 have been added. The Office Action rejected claims 27-33 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoyer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,105) in view of Tubel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,434,435) and Murray (U.S. Patent No. 4,413,277).

The Office Action indicated that claim 47 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. All the limitations of claim 47 have been added to its base claim 27. Therefore, independent claim 27 is believed to be allowable. In addition, since claim 28-33 and 47 are dependent upon now allowable claim 27, therefore they are also believed to be allowable. Dependent claim 47 has been amended to claim sharing a central database (see p. 35, last paragraph).

In addition, new claims 48-56 have been added. Claims 48-56 call for using selected data in calculating the execution statistics and providing the execution statistics to a workflow editor for display (as does claims 27-33). This feature is not disclosed by any of the references and therefore claims 48-56 are believed to be allowable as well.

The applicants submit that claims 27-33 and 47-56 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the applicants request the Examiner to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,


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